

JFK BOX 29  
FOLDER 16

Berk, Lechtenfeld

0003416

SECRET

(1)

Aug 3, 1978 DDO Moore J. Weston Brase does

See TSINGTAO - Street I [ "Duck" ]

11111401

Aug - Sep 1975

Transportation facilities in Tsingtao District

DDO Charles, Leonard Joseph Brase does

July 1968 Memo for the record

RETURN TO CIA

July Conversation w/ [ 2 ] Friends - 1 ]

Background Use Only  
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area d - Leonard J. Charles was released  
on June 20 after paying a ransom of \$250,000  
(to Haitian Govt) (handwritten in)

Signed [ Wilma R. Van Seay ]

ML I DDP I - Charles, Leonard J.

US Dept of Justice - INS Miami Fla

See 29 1966 - DOB 4/21/23

US address - Consulate General of Haiti, Fla

July 17, 1966 - DOB - 1/13/66

US address - Haitian Consulate NYC

May 3, 1967 - DOB 4/21/23

US address - Well of Cistern NYC

See 4 1966 - DOB 4/21/32

US address - Embassy of Haiti, Washington DC

US Inter Info Cable See 19, 1966

Haiti Mid Nov. 1966 Power Jockeying Among

Leaders

source - [ Haitian student - member of clandestine  
espionage arm President Movement ] Received

104-10333-10333

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(2)

following info from 4 different sources w/ access to opposition & pro-duvalier circles including [Frantz Berry, private secretary to agriculture<sup>8</sup> Minister Louis René Constant.]

"Within Duvalier's entourage are 3 persons vying for power after the fall of Duvalier. They are Joseph Léonard Charles - President of Haitian Bank of Commerce & Louis Sénior, Minister of Finance & Lucien Sandroni Minister of Public Works. All 3 are outwardly pro-Duvalierist & there are no signs that they intend to try and overthrow Duvalier themselves.

Joseph Léonard Charles has the support of former assistant finance minister Lionel Lajue & Céleste Charles, Minister Victor N. Constant, plus that of several businessmen in Port au Prince.

16-8 July 21 1966  
[Redacted] 3739

Classified Message - Secret - Cite [Port au Prince]  
[DIA/COUNT-1] reported July 19 following

From a high ranking palace source who claims obtained info from top palace personality that C. J. Charles traveled to Italy to arrange contact & payment of \$25,000 to [WFACT] offer who keeping duvalier informed re [WFACT] plans for Haiti (word "work" underlined)

IWS papers - 7/4/66

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US address - In transit

Date & place of admission 6/28/66 NYC

Classified Message June 20 1966

Cdr Claude Rynerd, Dr Roger Lefontant, Port au Prince know Mme Frantz Berry's private secretary Pierre Beaubien applied US Consulate 17 June for transit visa for special mission to London. Dr Rynerd & wife stay US going to UK & 2 wks on

(3)  
RS

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(3)

return trip Leonard Charles travelling as inspector for Haitian Embassies + consulates separately transit visa for trip to Europe.

Letter to Dir. of FBI

from Dir. of Plans

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Sub Charles

Reference is made to the ICI request from concerned July who entered US on 3 April 1966. In files of another office of this Agency contain the following info more recent than contained in TSC SSB - 315/00477-64 dated Oct 9 1964  
Sub: Inquiry re: the possibility of buying Cigarettes for Haiti.

source (US national w [40 yrs] exper in [tobacco industry]) Charles was specifically referred to as Suc  
banker + financial manager. Charles was regarded as being very close to the gang + having ready access  
to U.S. Source describes CJC as crook + prone to be treated. In 1932 Charles was negotiator on behalf of Haitian gov't wife in England for modernization of  
Haiti's telecomm system. As a result of this contract -  
Haiti experienced a great financial scandal - 4 million  
dollar contract delivered 1 million worth of goods.

Charles was also pres of Haitian Banana Corp. once  
operated by Eric Pippentance + Col. Prosser - went  
bankrupt. Charles Rendea Essonitri Oils Co. <sup>as part</sup>  
death of Louis de Joss. Charles principal <sup>influence</sup> in  
tobacco industry was Henry Sinclair who was director of Haitian Tobacco Monopoly. It is believed to be  
Charles' hatchet man - no verification.

Ans - 4/11/66

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HS address - Haitian Cables N.Y.C

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P.S.

Info Report - CIA. 4005-32410634-66 SECRET

Subj. Charles

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Source [U.S. National, sales rep for [U.S. tobacco] manufacturer]

Through attempts to establish business connections, source learned that a reportedly privately owned tobacco co. known as Le Tabac Hispano - S.A. is directed by CJC a black Haitian who also happens to be Pres. of Commercial Bank in Haiti. This cigarette manuf. firm is direct descendant of long defunct Haitian Amer. Tab. Co. (names ego - Le Tabac) began ordering mod. quantities of leaf tobacco & providing letters of credit to pay for it. First encounter w/ Charles, <sup>subject</sup> attempted to enlist source's principal's financial back-up to the sum of \$300,000 deferred the offer. Offered resumé.

1946 - app't controller General of Panama Canal Co. of which he became Gen Agent in 1948.

1953 - went to London as a Member of Econ Mission sent to Eng. by Haitian Govt & reg. in 1954 a contract w/ G.E. in Country.

1957. app't member of Econ Mission to Italy's conf. held in Geneva.

1960 - Created Banque Commerciale d'Haiti of which he is Pres. & dir. It also pres. of 17 other firms he holds.

Is exclusive agent for G.E. Country & 3 minor shareholders A.G. - among Pres. of Chamber of Commerce of Haiti

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Banks - List of Companies

Bank of America - San Fran 1<sup>st</sup> Natl of Boston

First Natl City Bank - NY

Boston

Maryland Hanover Trust Co.

P. A. M. - Miami

Swiss Trust

SECRET Project, Security also

(RS)

SNS 2-13-66

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(4)

US address - Haitian consulate NY  
SNS - 12/13/64 same -

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Classified Message - Nov. 10 1964

De M mail intercepted announcing death of Antonino Savinova in Brazil.

re: ref B see also [14TPA] 359 indicate, at least social contact between <sup>Mohammed</sup> Fayed, de M + Robish up Galleck.

CIA Info Cable Oct 9 1964 Inquires re possibility of buying aircraft for Haiti.

Place date acquired - US, Miami Oct 7, 1964

Source - US citizen who operates bus in Miami where he enjoys friendship of many military & gov't leaders & who is a former military officer & a trained reporter.

"On or about Oct 3 Rob. the Aviation Investors Co of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., received an inquiry about the possibility of buying a C-119 aircraft for the Colombian govt. The call was made by Raymond (not further ID) to Saunders U. Robeson, an aviation investors co employee, who agreed to investigate the proposed aircraft purchase.

On Oct 5 Robeson received a telephone call from a man who ID himself as "Flash" (phonetic) re: possible purchase of a P-51 aircraft ostensibly for the Colombian govt, but it was actually intended for Haiti. Robeson agreed to meet w/ [14TPA] at the Congress Bldg in Miami to discuss both purchases.

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Source comment: Robeson is a Caucasian born 1917 who once attempted sugar neg in Haiti, where he became known to several Haitian Govt officials, including CJG. Need comment: Unakel source previously reported that Charles had unsuccessfully attempted to buy a T-28 aircraft in Argentina.

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(P.S.)

See Transfer + Cross Ref.

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(3)

April 24, 1964

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Charles has influence at Sevaller + reportedly ~~is~~ is closely allied with the de M's in their activities in Haiti.

See Transfer

May 21, 1963

Sub. has returned to Haiti + is seriously being considered as next pres.

Items May 17, 1963

At DC arrival on May 14, 1963, P/S Balag had a farewell interview w/ Haitian banker. Took place at "Haiti" room at Park Sheraton Hotel in NY. Charles produced a letter from Wm Hix Glasserman (40 W. 44 St, NY) addressed to Humphrey according to Charles. Glasserman + HH are good friends. It was a letter of introduction for Charles due to critical period of Haitian relations w/ Castro + that the Admin. might begin to look for men w/ Charles ability. Charles was unable to make another trip to DC to see HH. He asked his friend + business partner, Jay Tugel Tarupa to present ~~his~~ <sup>Glasserman's</sup> letter to HH. Offered to "cooperate w/ US Govt. thru" one of Captain's "old friends".

Charles cousin Joseph J. Charles was a former ambassador of Haiti to US. No promises were made concerning his offer. Signed, Jay B. L. Reeves.

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May 10 1963 memo

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Apr 29 1963 - Dorothy Mattack, Domestic Esp. from ACI telephoned to the effect that a banker named Charles had left Haiti 6 days earlier & had just arrived in NY.

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Joseph Dryer had written to Gen Delmas Commandant GJC to the US about

Mattack alerted Col. Jim Kail in Miami to contact Dryer for > info on backgd of GJC

May 1 1963 Mattack advised GJC staying at Rich Sheraton NY she had called since her name had been supplied to him by Dryer. GJC had appts to see LBT, Gen Keateng + Cong Rigors. GJC willing to talk to reps of Mattack's office. Mattack said Haitian desk man would go to GJC & invited Col Kail to go along. James Saloy accompanied NY office due to familiarity w/ French language.

May 2 1963 Dryer interviewed by Col Kail in West Palm Beach. Dryer had appt GJC as director of his bank in Haiti.

Charles wanted to see JFK & went to White House received by special appts. See

May 3 1963 Saloy reported a 5 hour session w/ GJC for obtaining background info. Copies of info sent to ACI w/ des. + Latin Amer Branch.

Meeting held at de Mi + GJC - (in prior note) in course of course GJC desired to see Mr. Weiss (SAAG AID) to discuss US aid to Haiti. Request passed along to State. Mr. Ragonde had called her back to pass along to the Haitian desk man's extreme displeasure that anyone in the US would be in official contact w/ GJC. Considered GJC Shady, or close to dictatorial. Mays Sturtry declined w/ division and as a result of meeting w/ GJC the DIA/P that handled red NSC/RKZ plans to contact

Wayne Wilson DDP Coordinator called on May 7 to inquire concerning CGC. Said ACSI was concerned that due to mix up in apps to ~~SECRET~~ CGC, charges might be made that ACSI had ~~obstructed~~ or <sup>obstructed</sup> CIA contact of Charles. Later said ACSI was satisfied with handling.

Hallack was of the opinion that US should play ball w/ CGC  
signed AF Czajkowski

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Enclosed in open envelope "Plan for the Econ + Social Dev. of Haiti" by CGC

✓ Gendre - Pardieu - advisor to Banque Comm.  
is Mr. Charles' spiritual father. Owns chocolate factory in PaP. (taken from Summary of Haitian Banking Co by Odilon")

Booklet - Banque Commerciale d'Haiti w/ pictures of CGC 1963

DOB 4/21/23

Info Report CEA May 10 1963 00B-3, 260, 765

Source - US citizen former journalist

4 hour interview. CGC believes this is the last chance for US to save Haiti.

lost of personal supporters -

Clouis Desnoes - Sec of Commerce + Industry + a good friend - (in side pane written - Ambrose T HARRNETT (201-345467) told the FBI in Nov 62 that Desnoes is one of 2 card carrying Communists in Govt)

Tim Peret - Former Haitian military attaché in DC

If CGC was not made president he would accept Sec of Finance + Econ Affairs. Present Sec - Horace Boeye has leftist tendencies (written in: HARRNETT described Boeye as the 2<sup>nd</sup> card carrying commie known to him)

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Quoted as saying "The tyrant (devalois) may be killed by the army" before 22, May 1963

May 9 1963 [Contact] rpt. SECRET

[21BKNY/1] said that he had encountered CGC at Wash. Nat. Arpt. [REDACTED] CGC was enroute to Chicago according by Odem although no explan. was given.

signed [Frank<sup>3</sup> Stone]

1111409

Rept of May 22 1963. Report from Balog  
CGC advised by [REDACTED] discuss. Chatelet Rep.

Memo May 24 1963. from Balog Dr May 6 1963

(1) Red private cover up CGC. CGC wanted to deal w/ US officials w/out G.d.m. Feared any indiscretion could result in wife's death. Had just received promise from V.P. of Chase Manhattan NYC for "2 million loan to be used for construction of housing in Haiti.

(2) Bank in Port-au-Prince

V.P. FBI suggested CGC discuss this matter w/ Edmund Wiss, AD, State Dept. For purpose of consultation w/ Wiss + a meeting of colleagues "friends of Col. Balog" Charles flew to DC on May 7

Memo May 26 1963. Report NY 2147-3 for OO-A(S)

Czajkowski - Balog

The situation concerning CGC returns just as fluid as situation in Haiti. CGC advised w/ that his friend of Matlack (see what I mean by fluid?) had changed his travel plans to DC instead of Tuesday he (Balog) now expects to be in DC Thurs or Friday. CGC indicated he would be willing to go to DC sometime this week. He asked to see him again this afternoon. Our meeting (the 3rd since this meet) SECRET

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again this afternoon. Our meeting (the 3<sup>rd</sup> since  
last Thursday) is scheduled at 1430. Bolog (Sgt)  
Capt. Bolog U.S. Army to Charles will get in  
touch w/ Shultz re: telecon after Bolog-Charles  
meeting.

11111410

May 3 Memo from Bolog NY-2128-3

At his request on May 3 1968 we had an additional  
interview w/ CGC. He informed us he had received a  
telephone call from Joe Dwyer, Ra. Dwyer told [J]  
he could not see him over the weekend but would  
visit him in NYC next Wed May 8. Prior to  
that Dwyer plans to meet on DC Jacqueline  
Delmas 3130 P St., a friend of Matlack's to  
discuss things of mutual interest to Hart.  
Then Met Delmas & wife.

XL II Charles DDC from [Matlack]

[secret contact] W. On May 20 1968 [James A.]

[Dun] told us that [J] is seeking help in raising  
the required ransom (for his release from prison) from  
[Brian] himself [James A. of B&B Inter'l Corp] [J]  
Ave 11<sup>th</sup> + Dwyer [Brian +] Dwyer are meeting  
during the evening of May 20 1968 after which  
[Brian] will take Dwyer to airport. Dwyer is to fly to  
Hart on May 21 1968 [Dun] said Dwyer is a friend  
of the family of Joseph P. Kennedy

Charles was arrested on May 21, 1968 June 23 1967

Confid. Memo May 20 1968 Charles uses pseudonym  
"Jacoby" in his confidential cover 0003425

Letter from Charles to Matlack dated June 6, 1967  
[REDACTED] thanking her for her kindness in 1963

6/25

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Requesting US assurance that the 2 forces (Castro & Baldizier) will be properly neutralized & requests his kind cooperation. [Mr Louis Brun] hand delivered the letter.

Charles stayed in Cr. 522 Alvar Tower  
on May 1963

Secret Memo - Phone call June 27 1967  
code used by [CoC + **Brun<sup>5</sup>**]

Bell + Co - "Major Saloy + DOD

1st Natl City Bank NY - US Govt

11111431

DL + Co - Souza Matlaek

Howard Corp - Col ~~the~~ Burns a former military  
and to Pres. Johnson

Business trans - help of US Govt & Charles

"... as far as business is concerned, I received  
at my home a rep of Bell + Co. I am very happy now  
I think we have no further worry concerning the business  
transaction. He accepted to sponsor the business  
transaction w/ D.L + Co, The Howard Corp + other  
business enterprises. This is a very big success & I  
hope that w/ the assistance of the 1<sup>st</sup> City Nat.  
Bank we'll make rapid progress. After all our  
efforts will not have been in vain & our field  
of business activity will be enlarged."

16-8  
Classified Message June 28 1967 from [Port au P.]

Charles' life in danger - relying on US  
govt to save him. US flag flies over central  
office of Commercial Bank

6003426

June 23 1967 Memo - Report from George Weston  
Souza Matlaek has now been cut out of  
the contact between DLS & [Ku<sup>5</sup> B.] Presum.  
[V.B. - Luis Brun]

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Yellow Paper Marked Secret: ~~Notation June 21 1967~~

Bob

Mr. Musulin do called to say that Dorothy Matlack had called to inform him that she had reached [MS. B] that per instructions [MS. 123] would pass info of Matlack to Belog in NY. Mr. Musulin said that from his conversation w/ her he believed Matlack wanted to be cut in on this activity & wanted to receive copies of any disseminations.

June 15 1967

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Sensitive Memos - [Bun] Barron denies event in Haiti. Barron who thinks highly of CJC [redacted] he fully supports CJC's plans & he will see LBJ at 4:30P.

Memo for Record - June 15, 1967 Agency Contact w/ CJC

Cert contacts w/ CJC dates back to May 1963 when he was invited in his suite in Hotel Willard to an office DC by a rep of WH due to the time he has made many visits to the U.S. on occasion & talk to some US official. Most persistent of his approaches have been made to DIA/NY where he believes leads him to DDCI. He has never offered any evidence that he has some thing going for him in Haiti. Names he has furnished have meant little or nothing. No hard info has been produced. Fabrication in some cases is obvious. CJC is trying to coerce the U.S. into supporting his present aspirations.

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INS - 5/3/67

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US address - 111-101 Astoria - NY  
*(PS)*